

Questions for Ukrainian Legal Scholar

1. Background: At the February 1958 plenum of the central committee it was announced that a Congress of Kolkhozniks would be convened in the beginning of 1959 in order to revise the Model Kolkhoz Charter of 1935. The Congress never met, and the kolkhoz charter has not been changed.

Questions:

A. Why was the Congress of Kolkhozniks scheduled to be convened in "the beginning of 1959" never held?

2. Background: Interkolkhoz organizations have been formed to perform such tasks as the construction of roads, processing plants, storage warehouses, schools, power plants, etc. The Ukraine leads the USSR in the number of such organizations. However, up to now, these organizations have developed without direct governmental sponsorship or legal authorization. No laws exist regarding the ownership of the property of the interkolkhoz organizations or the payment of labor and such matters.

Questions:

A. Are there any plans to change the Model Kolkhoz Charter of 1935? What kind of changes are anticipated?

B. Are plans underway to codify the activities and organization of interkolkhoz organizations (mekhkolhozhnyye organizatsii)?

3. Background: The kolkhoz unions were designed to administer the activities of the interkolkhoz organizations at the oblast, republic, and national levels. The establishment of kolkhoz unions would have led to the virtual abolition of the Ministry of Agriculture and its subordinate agencies. The radical measure was first proposed by Khrushchev in a memorandum (zapiska) he prepared in 1956 or 1957, at the latest, and was later supported by N.V. Podgorny's formal memorandum (dokladnaya zapiska). The measure received strong support in the Ukrainian press in 1958 and 1959, but was defeated at the December 1959 plenum, despite support by presidium member Belyayev, and candidate members Polyansky, Podgorny, and Kirilenko.

Question:

A. Why was the proposal to form kolkhoz unions (soyuzy) defeated at the December 1959 plenum? Who were the principal opponents of this reform?

4. Background: Kirichenko was Khrushchev's understudy in the party secretariat. He was transferred to Rostov less than three weeks after the December 1959 plenum, removed from the secretariat and presidium in May 1960, and removed from Rostov in June 1960.

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Questions:

A. Are plans under way to reactivate the kolkhoz union proposal?

B. Why was A.I. Kirichenko demoted? Was he involved in the campaign to establish kolkhoz unions?

5. Background: The central committee resolution of March 1959 became the subject of nationwide discussion throughout 1959. However, another resolution was issued after the December 1959 plenum which repeated much of the Stalino resolution.

Questions:

A. Does informant know anything about what transpired at the December 1959 plenum?

B. Why was a central committee resolution on ideology issued on 10 January 1960 -- Soviet sources state that this resolution was "indissolubly connected" with the December 1959 plenum -- when it merely repeated the already existing central committee Stalino (Ukrainian) oblast?

6. Background: Many of Khrushchev's proteges, including the Procurator Rudenko, were advocating this in 1958/1959. ✓

Question:

A. Who opposed the campaign in late 1958 and early 1959 to bring the "anti-party group" to trial on criminal charges?